



2014

98 search and rescue missions conducted

\$43 million in federal funds distributed

153 hazardous materials incident responses

7,208 employees and volunteers trained

2015

44 lives saved and 10 recoveries through 73 search and rescue missions

159 training courses provided. 13 exercises with 1,505 participants

\$63.4 million in federal funds distributed

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



bakken crude ISIL hurricanes cybersecurity flooding
ebola critical infrastructure state budget deficit
citizens needing assistance north anna tornados sea level rise
surry hampton roads UASI

2014-2015 BIENNIAL REPORT



2014 HIGHLIGHTS



FEB. 11-14*

More than 20 inches of snow, sleet and freezing rain cause hazardous driving conditions and two fatalities. VDEM coordinates state resources in response to the storm.



MARCH 2-5*

Sleet, gusty winds, ice accumulations and nine inches of heavy snow resulting in four fatalities and hazardous driving conditions. VDEM coordinates state resources in response to the storm.



JULY 8

VDEM and other state and local agencies participate in the first FEMA and Nuclear Regulatory Commission-graded hostile action-based exercise at North Anna Nuclear Power Station.

APRIL 30

Train derailment and fire in Lynchburg result in the release of approximately 30,000 gallons of Bakken crude oil into the James River. VDEM hazardous materials officers coordinate week-long recovery operations.
Photo provided by City of Lynchburg



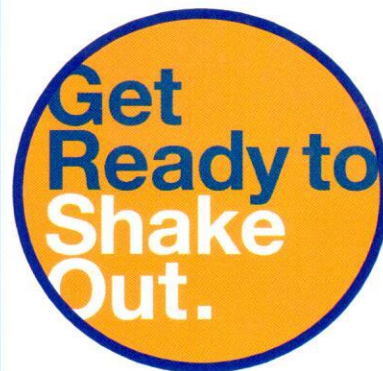
SEPT. 16-OCT. 24

University of Virginia student, Hannah Graham, goes missing. VDEM helps coordinate the 35-day search in support of the Charlottesville Police Department, involving nearly 4,000 community volunteers, more than 21,000 search hours, 22 search and rescue teams and 18 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. It is the biggest search operation in Virginia's history.



OCT. 16

VDEM leads the Great SouthEast ShakeOut earthquake drill with 1.3 million participants across the Commonwealth.



AUG. 27-29

An F-15 aircraft crash in the George Washington National Forest results in the death of a Massachusetts Air National Guard 104th Fighter Wing pilot. VDEM provides search and rescue support to state and local responders and the Department of Defense.

JULY 24-25

A strong thunderstorm, an EF-1 tornado and baseball-sized hail impact the Cherrystone Campground in Northampton County and cause three deaths and 36 injuries. VDEM supports local response efforts.



2015 HIGHLIGHTS



FEB. 10

VDEM participates in a FEMA and Nuclear Regulatory Commission-graded, hostile action-based exercise at Surry Nuclear Power Station with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

FEB. 12

VDEM, with the Virginia Department of Health and State Police, establish a unified command to coordinate response to the Ebola Virus Disease threat, as Dulles airport is designated as a point of entry from West Africa.

FEB. 14-17*

Approximately 36 inches of snow and heavy rain result in 22 fatalities, leave more than 77,000 without power and cause significant damage in Wise County. VDEM coordinates state resources for the response and recovery.



MARCH

Virginia implements the Emergency Management Professionals Program Basic Academy at the state level, training 60 emergency managers in its first year.

JULY 1

VDEM's re-organization begins with formation of the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) and training all personnel in emergency management roles.

JULY 31

VDEM receives the Portlight Strategies' Mark Johnson "Getting It Right" award recognizing the agency's dedication to serving individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.

JUNE 26-JULY 5

VDEM supports a regional Multi-Agency Coordination Center with state and federal partners for more than 10,000 athletes from 68 countries and all 50 states for the World Police and Fire Games in Fairfax County.
Photo provided by WPFG federation



SEPT. 29-OCT. 4*

VDEM activates the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) in response to the dual hazards of inland rainstorms combined with the threat from Hurricane Joaquin. Rainstorms and a separate low-pressure system caused flooding and approximately \$18 million in damages.



NOVEMBER

VDEM becomes the first state to host an off-campus offering of the FEMA Emergency Management Institute's Professional Program Advanced Academy, bringing together professionals to hone emergency management leadership.



OCT. 21

After an intensive review of the state's emergency management program policies and practices, Virginia receives its third accreditation since 2005 from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program—one of only three states ever to achieve three-in-a-row.



SEPT. 19-26

VDEM provides technical support and staff during the UCI Road World Championships—a nine-day series of international bicycle races that drew 450,000 spectators to the Richmond area. Simultaneously, VDEM deploys personnel to support local emergency operation centers during Pope Francis' visit to Washington, DC.

*Governor McAuliffe declared a State of Emergency, an action that empowers VDEM and other state agencies to quickly identify and position critical resources where they are needed most.

A READY VIRGINIA IS A RESILIENT VIRGINIA

From hurricanes to terrorism, from cybersecurity to sea-level rise, Virginia faces a dynamic risk environment that reflects new threats and increasing vulnerabilities. VDEM is implementing a new vision for the future of emergency management to ensure that our citizens and our communities can effectively prepare for these changing risks. These changes include four strategic priorities:

INCREASE REGIONAL CAPACITY

VDEM is establishing regional offices across the Commonwealth and doubling the number of staff assigned in each region, to better serve local governments and to be closer to respond to emergencies. Each office will have a Chief Regional Coordinator, a Disaster Response and Recovery Officer, a Hazardous Materials Officer and a Regional All-Hazards Planner.

QUICK AND INTEGRATED RESPONSE

Under a new disaster services bureau, VDEM has reorganized to improve the speed of its disaster support operations, and is working to integrate local, state, federal and voluntary response in a unified effort to speed disaster aid to survivors.

STRATEGIC AND SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMS

In order to operate with a 70 percent reduction in federal grants since 2008, VDEM has consolidated its grants and financial management activities under a Chief Financial Officer and established a stakeholder-driven process for homeland security grant allocation. This maximizes the use of available and currently diminishing grant funds.

ENHANCED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

VDEM has consolidated all professional development programs into a single Training, Education, and Exercise Division and is embarking on new pathways for professional development for local and state emergency managers, including holding in-state sessions of FEMA's basic and advanced emergency management academies.

MESSAGE FROM THE STATE COORDINATOR

VDEM must constantly evolve to address each new challenge that faces our Commonwealth. We never know when an earthquake will occur, and we may have only minutes to take shelter from an approaching tornado. However, we can improve our readiness through planning for all hazards, organizing our response system to speed help to those in need, training for a wide-range of scenarios, equipping ourselves with the best technology, and exercising together as a single team, whether we are from local, state, or federal government, or the private or nonprofit sector.

A ready Virginia is a resilient Virginia. Let's get ready Virginia!

Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D.
State Coordinator

